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closely in their directions with the fluctuations in the marriage rate of the entire country." Further analysis shows that marriages are more numerous in England in those countries where women are earning independent wages.

The concluding portion of the paper is devoted to a consideration of the various causes which might bring about a stationary population, for Dr. Ogle thinks that the present rate of increase will shortly reach "its permissible limits." His judgment is that "it is manifest that if the growth of population is hereafter to be arrested, and a stationary condition produced, either by emigration, or by increase of permanent celibacy, or by retardation of marriage, these remedies will have to be applied on a scale so enormously in excess of any experience as to amount to a social revolution."

The movement of the population in France in 1889 has not been so uniform in its elements as in preceding years. Births have been more numerous than was anticipated in view of the regularly falling returns of previous years. The births in 1889 were 880,570 against 882,639 in 1888, that is, a decrease of only 2,060. In 1888, however, the loss was 16,794 as compared with 1887. At the same time there has been a smaller number of deaths, 794,933 in 1889 as compared with 837,867 in 1888. The result of this has been to make a net addition to the population of 40,874, a gain which has not been noted since 1885. The marriage rate, however, fell in 1889, a fact which does not augur well for the future. The numbers of marriages was 272,984, or 3,914 less than in 1888. The proportion of marriages was only 7 per 1,000 of the population.

Attention is here called to extracts of an article on *French and English Mortality* published in the "Miscellany."

At the annual meeting of the British Association for the advancement of Science, held in September at Leeds, a striking address was made by Mr. E. G. Ravenstein, upon the question of the lands of the globe still available for European settlement. Mr. Ravenstein estimates the present population of the world at 1,468,000,000 with an increase of 8 per cent every 10 years. To fertile or comparatively fertile land he assigned 28,000,000 square miles; to bare grass lands, or steppe, 14,000,000; and to bare desert, 4,180,000. For the bare desert land he allowed a possible population of 1 to the square mile; to

the poor grass land, 10 ; while to the fertile area he regarded 207 to the square mile as a moderate estimate. This last ratio is based upon the known density of population in such countries as China, Japan, and India. The earth, upon this calculation, could sustain 5,994,000,000 people ; and if the population continued to increase at the rate of 8 per cent per decade, that maximum would be reached in 182 years. In commenting upon this address the London *Economist*, September 13, expresses the opinion that this is an underestimate, the possibilities of agricultural production not being taken into account.

A full, if not verbatim, report of Dr. John S. Billings' *Lectures on Vital and Medical Statistics*, delivered as the Cartwright Lectures before the Alumni Association of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, in 1889, was published in the *Medical Record* of November 30, December 7 and 14, 1889. The lectures are illustrated by diagrams.

*Twenty-first Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts.* Boston. 1890. Pp. 457.

Two special reports in this volume are of general interest, *The Physique of Women in Massachusetts*, by Dr. H. P. Bowditch, pp. 285-304 ; and *The Influenza Epidemic of 1889-90*, by Dr. Samuel W. Abbott, pp. 385-442. Dr. Bowditch in earlier reports has contributed two articles upon the *Growth of Children*, based upon the study of some 24,500 measurements of pupils of the Boston public schools. The present article is an attempt to obtain a fairly correct idea of the physical type of the adult young woman in the vicinity of Massachusetts, based upon a set of 1107 observations. The tables refer to the height, weight, sitting height, and stretch of arm of the women observed ; and the returns are compared in some instances with similar observations made by Dr. Sargent and Mr. Galton. Dr. Bowditch has also made use of the statistical methods used by Mr. Galton, described in *Natural Inheritance*.

In the paper by Dr. Abbott a complete history of the epidemic is given, and as a result of special investigation made at the time some interesting conclusions are arrived at. The ratio of the population in Massachusetts attacked was about 40 per cent, or about 850,000 persons. The ratio of persons in industrial establishments who were obliged to leave their work on account of illness was about 27 per